

THE DREAM



Team Frostbyte Gears Up for Nasa!

On December 4th, Team FrostByte delivered an amazing presentation at Landus/Landwerx as part of their journey in the **NASA App Development Challenge** (ADC)!

These talented students from **North High School, Roosevelt High School**, and **Virtual High School** in Des Moines have been tackling technical problems to contribute to deep space exploration missions as part of the Artemis Student Challenges.

We are proud to have been their home base in our E-Sports lab over the past year, providing support at every step of their journey.

Check out their full presentation through the link above the newsletter and see the incredible work they've done.

UPCOMING EVENT

A Day of Service

Monday, January 20th, 2025

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Urban Dreams Community Center
1615 2nd Ave. Des Moines, IA 50314

Join us on Martin Luther King Jr. Day as we host our **Day of Service**.

Volunteers will work in shifts of 2 hours or more and participate in a variety of tasks serving the community.

Interested members should sign up using the QR code or the link above.



DECEMBER 2024

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD DONATION

A special thank you to our partners at the **Iowa National Guard** for hosting a food drive benefiting Urban Dreams from December 3rd to December 19th.

Their dedication and hard work made a huge impact on our community.

On December 19th, service members delivered an incredible **1,122 pounds** of donated food to our community food pantry.

They also volunteered their time to weigh, sort, and place the donations on the shelves, ensuring everything was ready for distribution. We are grateful for their support and for **Helping Us Help Others**.



JAYS CD AND HOBBY



The spirit of giving is alive and well this holiday season! Our incredible partners at Jays CD and Hobby generously sponsored **three** local families with a free shopping spree at their West Des Moines store.

On December 23rd, the families were invited to shop before the store opened, selecting from a wide variety of gifts, including Legos, stuffed animals, video games, toys, and more!

We are proud to collaborate with such a kind-hearted team, spreading holiday cheer and making a meaningful impact on those in need within our community.



HOLIDAY HULLABALOO

This holiday season, Urban Dreams had the pleasure of supporting the vibrant Holiday Hullabaloo event in West Des Moines by providing valet services.

It was an honor to be part of such a festive community celebration, offering a seamless experience for attendees as they arrived to enjoy the festivities.



At Urban Dreams, we are always excited to connect with new community members and support local organizations in bringing people together. By assisting with valet services for this event, we helped ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone, allowing guests to focus on the fun and festivities of the day.

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tiffany Walker

Tiffany Walker, our **Youth Program Coordinator**, successfully completed the SCSEP Orientation - Participant Payroll & Timesheets training!

With this new knowledge, Tiffany is better equipped to manage participant payroll processes and timesheet submissions, contributing to the continued success of our programs and services.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Meet the Students in Our Youth Employment Program!

The Urban Dreams Youth Employment Program supports **25 young people aged 14 to 19** from Des Moines Public Schools by providing practical work experience, community service opportunities, and essential soft skills development. We believe that investing in youth employment empowers individuals and strengthens communities.

Cherry

Favorite Event: Exploring college opportunities.

Favorite Food: Popcorn

Extracurriculars: Volleyball & Soccer

College Plans: I want to get a bachelor's degree majoring in pre-law.

Best Part of the Experience: Meeting new people.



DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS



13,387

TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD



1,692

TOTAL PANTRY VISITS



3

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Updated Food Pantry Hours

Monday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Our Partners

Atlantic Bottling Co.	Kum & Go
Casey's	Kwik Star
Centro	Malo
Costco	Pizza Hut
Dollar General	Price Chopper
Food Bank of Iowa	Sam's Club
Garbazo	Whole Foods
Gilroy's	World Market
Hiland Bakery	

CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS!

Chris Conetzkey

We're thrilled to congratulate our board member, **Chris Conetzkey**, on his promotion to CEO of Business Record!

In a planned CEO succession, Suzanna de Baca will transition her leadership role at Business Publications Corp. (BPC) to group publisher Chris Conetzkey, who will assume the role of president at year-end.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Future of Urban Dreams

Urban Dreams is committed to making a lasting impact in the communities we serve through ongoing growth and development. To guide our efforts, we've partnered with The Ingenuity Company to create a roadmap for the future, grounded in research and data.

This strategic approach will help ensure we continue to thrive and make a meaningful difference. Below are some of the key initiatives shaping our future.

EXPAND AND ENHANCE

- Conducting thorough evaluations and continuously improving existing programs

GREATER ORGANIZATIONAL AWARENESS

- Elevating Urban Dreams' brand presence and strengthening public awareness

BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCY

- Providing training opportunities to staff to equip them with skills for future careers, fostering professional growth, retention, and long-term success

Keep an eye out for our Year-In-Review newsletter to read more about our future plans!

URBAN DREAMS COMMUNITY CENTER

Rent the Urban Dreams Community Center!

Our community center has been buzzing with activity over the past few months, serving as a hub for connection and celebration. It's home to the Riverbend Neighborhood Association's monthly meetings, weekly AA gatherings, and a variety of other events. The space is perfect for hosting baby showers, holiday parties, corporate events, and more.

Amenities include:

- Capacity for 275 people standing
- Up to 15 round tables seating 8 people at each table
- Three mounted TVs and one mobile TV
- High-speed WiFi
- Convenient kitchenette
- Toucan video conference system



To reserve the space, please scan the QR code or follow the link provided above this newsletter. To use the community center, a minimum donation of \$10 an hour is suggested. Your generous support helps maintain and improve the facility.



Employee of the Month!

This month's employee of the month has been awarded to Dudley Muhammad!

He consistently demonstrates dedication and versatility in his role at Urban Dreams. He plays a key part in our youth programs, as well as in maintaining our community courtyard and office building.

This month, he has gone above and beyond, stepping up to assist with extra holiday services, and ensuring that everything runs smoothly during this busy time. We're grateful for Dudley's unwavering commitment and all he does for our team and community. Thank you, Dudley!



MISSION STATEMENT

Urban Dreams advocates for **all members of the community**, breaking down barriers to success and collaborating with key stakeholders to overcome obstacles and uplift **underserved** and **underrepresented** people.

VISION STATEMENT

Our Urban Dream is to create **equal opportunity and access** for people to pursue their Dreams.

FOLLOW US TO STAY UP TO DATE ON CURRENT EVENTS



Urban Dreams - Iowa
Facebook



urban.dreams.dsm
Instagram



urbandreamsdsm
Snapchat



@UrbanDreams
Twitter



Urban-Dreams
LinkedIn



www.urbandreams.org
Website



SCAN OUR LINK TREE TO
ADD US ON SOCIALS